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Troy Receives Two Grants For Waterfront Development

For Immediate Release
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(March 31, 2005- TROY)- Mayor Harry J Tutunjian announced Thursday that the City of Troy has been awarded two grants from New York State to assist in waterfront development.

The grants are under the auspices of the Brownfields Opportunity Area Program (BOA) and will be used for two sections of waterfront in North Central Troy and South Troy.

The first grant, worth \$50,000 for North Central area, will be used to complete a pre-nomination study for a 600-acre area that includes 17 potential Brownfield sites located along the Hudson River. The objectives of this potential project are to develop public amenities along the riverfront that will reverse property depreciation that has occurred due to abandoned industrial properties, limited riverfront access, environmental contamination and job loss.

The second grant for the South Troy area is in the amount of \$86,750 and will be used to complete a study that presents a plan to redevelop the 208 acres of land characterized as Brownfields in the southern section of the City. The main objectives of this project will be to redevelop the land so that it is compatible with both the historic structures of the downtown area, as well as the adjacent residential neighborhoods.

“Obviously when you submit grant proposals you keep your fingers crossed that the City will be chosen,” Tutunjian said. “We were ecstatic to find out that both of the projects we submitted were chosen to receive these BOA grants. For years the waterfront along the Hudson River has been talked about as a potential boom for our tax base and economy. Progress in these endeavors is often tough to measure, but it is there, and it is news such as this that will help us achieve our ultimate goal.”

Tutunjian also thanked New York State Governor George Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver for signing the bi-partisan Memorandum of Understanding that allowed for the \$30 million to be spread across New York State municipalities for Brownfield cleanup.

“The leadership at the top of state government, led by Governor Pataki and Senator Bruno have made waterfront development and Brownfield remediation a priority, and we thank them for that support,” Tutunjian said. “It is clear that they understand what we already believe- that our waterfront has the potential to be part of a great revitalization over the next few decades.”

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Tutunjian also thanked the City workforce that obtained the grants with assistance from several groups, including: Gary Bowitch, Sterling Environmental, HRP Associates, and Avalon Associates.

City Councilwoman Carolin Collier represents the South Troy area where many of the Brownfields currently exist. She said Thursday that she looks forward to using the money to develop a solid plan for the district she represents.

“Brownfield remediation is an essential ingredient to the future development of South Troy,” Collier said. “These grants will provide financial assistance to help us correctly identify the path that should be taken in the years to come.”

Councilman Bob Armet represents the entire City of Troy as an at-large representative, and lives near the South Troy area that will benefit from the \$86,750 grant. Councilman Armet said he has long believed that waterfront development is key to expanding the tax base, and believes these grants will go a long way towards promoting future development along the riverfront.

“This is terrific news for the residents of Troy,” Armet said. “As we plan for the future of our most valuable natural resource, the Hudson River, it is our hope that we will be able to add significantly to the tax base and provide new and exciting recreational opportunities for the people of Troy.”